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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /097 W
---------- 030317
R 111100Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 948
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 398

EO 11652:H GDS
TAGS: PINT, UV
SUBJECT: THE NEW VOLTAN GOVERNMENT
REF: OUAGADOUGOU 378

1. COMPOSED OF 15 MINISTERS AND ONE SECRETARY OF STATE,
THE NEW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON FEB 9, INCLUDES MANY
NEW PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE GOVERNMENT
AND ARE LARGELY UNKNOWN.

2. BESIDES THE PRESIDENT, WHO RETAINS THE POST OF PRIME
MINISTER, THERE ARE FIVE MILITARY MENT, THREE OF WHOM
(BABA SY, LEONARD KALMOGO, AND MAHAMADOU OUEDRAOGO)HSERVED
IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. ALL THE CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY
FIGURES (GARANGO,HZAGRE, ZERBO, TIENTARABOUM, DAKOURE AND
BAMBARA) HAVE BEEN REMOVED. THE NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR
MAJOR SOME HELD THE SAME POSITION FROM 1971HTO 1973.
HE IS REPUTED TO BE ATOUGH "LAW AND ORDER" MAN WITH STRONG
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ANTI LEFTIST SENTIMENTS. THE NEW MINISTER OF FINANCE,

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MAJOR SANFO, WAS REPORTEDLY GARANGO'S CHOICE TO TAKE OVER
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WHEN GARANGO STILL HAD HOPES OF X
BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.

3. TWO CIVILIANS WHO WERE IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT,
LANKOANDE AND ZOMA, RETAIN PRACTICALLY THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE NEW CABINET, ALTHOUGH LANKOANDE IS GIVEN THE ADDED
RESPONSIBILITY OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY
PART OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE, OF THE
OTHER CIVILIANS, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ZONGO, WAS UNTIL
NOW PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, THE NEW MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ALFRED KABORE, IS A PROFESSOR WHO RUNS
A PRIVATE SCHOOL AND WAS MLN DEPUTY TO THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY UNTIL FEB 1974, THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
SALIA SANON, IS AN INTELLIGENT, HIGHLY CAPABLE AGRONOMIST
WHO HAS BEEN UP TO NOW PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE COORDINATING
COMMITTEE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF CIVIL
SERVICE AND LABOR, ZOUMANA TRAORE, IS SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE USTV (UNION SYNDICALE DES TRAVAILLEURS VOLTAIQUES)
ANAND THE MOST RADICAL OF THE FOUR LABOR LEADERS
WHO HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE PRESIDENT IN THE PAST FEW
WEEKS,HTHE NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND PTT, EMILE
BASSONO, WAS PREVIOUSLY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION IN
THE SAME MINISTRY.H LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE REMAINING
FOUR CIVILIAN MINISTERS BUT MADAME FATIMATA TRAORE IS THE
FIRST WOMAN APPOINTED TO A CABINET POST.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FORMER MINISTRY OF PLAN,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM,
WHICH WAS HEADED BY DAKOURE,HHAS NOW BEEN SPLIT INTO THREE
MINISTRIES WITH CAPT KALMOGO, FORMERLY SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR PLANNING,HASSUMING THE DIRECTION OF THE NEW
MINISTRY OF PLANNING. THIS SPLIT CERTAINLY MAKES A LOT OF
SENSE. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IT HAD PRACTICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE FOR DAKOURE TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES
OF HIS HUGE ORGANIZATION.

5. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE
RECEIVED BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. ALTHOUGH THE TRADE UNIONS
ARE REPRESENTED IN THE GOVERNMENT,HSOME TRADE UNION LEADERS
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REPORTEDLY COMPLAIN THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT
REPRESENTATION IN THE CABINET. OTHERS APPARENTLY STILL
WANT ASSURANCES THAT THIS IS ONLY A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT
WHICH WILL BE EXPECTED TO RESIGN WHEN THE COUNTRY RETURNS
TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS TAKEN AN
IMPORTANT STEP BUT MANY DIFFICULTIES REMAIN AND IT WILL
NOT BE EASY FOR HIM TO CONTINUE HIS BALANCING ACT BETWEEN THE
TRADE UNIONS AND THE ARMY.

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